

Serial No. 09/327,408

Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-157 (cancelled).

158. (previously presented) A method of providing directory assistance to a caller comprising:

searching by a directory assistance provider for a destination telephone number associated with a desired party;

initiating a telephone call between the caller and the desired party based on the destination telephone number;

determining if a predefined condition relating to the status of the telephone call occurs;

if the predefined condition occurs, obtaining an identifier of a messaging device associated with the desired party for contacting the desired party, the identifier being different from the destination telephone number;

sending a message to the messaging device associated with the desired party based on the identifier; and

allowing the caller to obtain the identifier of the messaging device from a directory assistance provider.

159. (previously presented) The method of claim 158, wherein the message comprises a voice message.

160. (previously presented) The method of claim 158, wherein the message comprises a text message.

161. (previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein the text message comprises a custom text message.

Serial No. 09/327,408

162. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the custom text message is dictated by the caller to a directory assistance provider.

163. (previously presented) The method of claim 158, wherein the message comprises a page.

164. (previously presented) The method of claim 158, wherein the predefined condition comprises a non-answering desired party condition.

165. (previously presented) The method of claim 164, wherein the non-answering desired party condition comprises a busy signal.

166. (previously presented) The method of claim 164, wherein the non-answering desired party condition comprises a ring-no-answer condition.

167. (previously presented) The method of claim 164, wherein an option to have the message sent is offered to the caller after an occurrence of the non-answering desired party condition.

168. (previously presented) The method of claim 158, wherein the message is sent to the desired party after an occurrence of the predefined condition when it is determined that the desired party has the messaging device capable of accepting the message.

169. (previously presented) The method of claim 158, wherein the predefined condition comprises call termination.

Serial No. 09/327,408

170. (previously presented) The method of claim 158, wherein the messaging device comprises a pager.

171. (previously presented) The method of claim 158, wherein the messaging device comprises a personal communications service (PCS) device.

172. (currently amended) A method of providing directory assistance services, comprising:

receiving a call from a caller, the call including a request for directory assistance;
in response to the request, locating contact information associated with a desired party;

establishing a communication between the caller and the desired party based on the contact information;

determining whether the caller has a device capable of receiving a message based on data associated with the caller stored in a database; and

sending a message containing at least part of the contact information to the device when it is determined that the caller has the device capable of receiving a message.

173. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the call originates from a telephonic apparatus having a telephone number associated with the caller.

174. (previously presented) The method of claim 173, wherein the device's capability of receiving a message is identified based on the telephone number.

175. (previously presented) The method of claim 173, wherein the telephonic apparatus comprises the device.

Serial No. 09/327,408

176. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the message comprises a text message.

177. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the contact information comprises a telephone number associated with the desired party.

178. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the contact information comprises a name of the desired party.

179. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the communication comprises a telephone call.

180. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the message comprises a page.

181. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the device comprises a pager.

182. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the device comprises a PCS device.

183. (previously presented) The method of claim 172, wherein the device comprises a wireless telephone.

184. (previously presented) A method of providing directory assistance services by a directory assistance provider, comprising:

receiving a call from a caller, the call including a request for directory assistance;

in response to the request, locating contact information associated with a desired party;

establishing a call between the caller and the desired party based on the contact information; and

upon completion of said call, (a) allowing the caller to return to a directory assistance provider by issuing a command, and (b) allowing the caller to receive an alphanumeric message comprising said contact information when it is determined that the caller has a device for receiving the alphanumeric message based on data associated with the caller stored in a database.

185. (previously presented) The method of claim 184, wherein said command comprises a DTMF tone.

186. (previously presented) The method of claim 185, wherein said alphanumeric message comprises a telephone number of said desired party.

187. (previously presented) The method of claim 186, wherein said alphanumeric message comprises a name of said desired party

188. (previously presented) The method of claim 187, wherein said alphanumeric message is sent to the caller automatically upon completion of said call.

189. (previously presented) A method of providing directory assistance services by a directory assistance provider, comprising:

receiving a call from a caller, the call including a request for directory assistance;
in response to the request, locating contact information associated with a desired party;

establishing a call between the caller and the desired party based on the contact information; and

upon completion of said call, (a) automatically returning the caller to a directory assistance provider, and (b) allowing the caller to receive an alphanumeric message comprising said contact information when it is determined that the caller has a device for receiving the alphanumeric message based on data associated with the caller stored in a database.

190. (previously presented) The method of claim 189, wherein said alphanumeric message comprises a telephone number of said desired party.

191. (previously presented) The method of claim 190, wherein said alphanumeric message comprises a name of said desired party

192. (previously presented) A method of providing directory assistance services, comprising:

receiving a call from a caller, the call including a request for directory assistance; in response to the request, locating contact information associated with a desired party;

attempting to establish a communication between the caller and the desired party based on the contact information;

automatically determining if a predefined condition relating to the status of the telephone call occurs; and

if the predefined condition occurs, (a) playing a menu of options to the caller, and (b) providing said contact information to the caller.

193. (previously presented) The method of claim 192, wherein the providing said

Serial No. 09/327,408

contact information to the caller comprises sending an alphanumeric message to the caller comprising said contact information.

194. (previously presented) The method of claim 193, wherein said predefined condition comprises a call termination condition.

195. (previously presented) The method of claim 194, wherein said alphanumeric message is sent to the caller automatically in response to detection of said call termination condition.

196. (previously presented) The method of claim 192, wherein said predefined condition comprises a busy signal.

197. (previously presented) The method of claim 196, wherein said menu comprises an option to receive said contact information and said providing said contact information to the caller is done upon caller selection of said option to receive said contact information.

198. (previously presented) The method of claim 197, wherein said menu comprises a multi-level menu.

199. (previously presented) The method of claim 198, wherein said contact information is audibly provided to said caller.

200. (previously presented) The method of claim 196, wherein said menu comprises an option to send an alphanumeric message.

Serial No. 09/327,408

201. (previously presented) The method of claim 200, wherein said option to send an alphanumeric message comprises an option to send an alphanumeric message to the desired party.